

SIERRA CLUB BULLETIN

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Minutes of Organization Meeting of Board of Directors, May 1, 1937

THE annual organization meeting of the Board of Directors of the Sierra Club was held at the club room, 1050 Mills Tower, San Francisco, California, at 10 o'clock, Saturday morning, May 1, 1937. All the members of the Board were present, namely, Directors Adams, Bernays, Clark, Colby, Dawson, Farquhar, Hildebrand, Huber, LeConte, McDuffie, Parsons, Price, Robinson, Starr, Tappaan. There were also present by invitation during portions of the meeting, William J. Murray, Opal V. Sherman, Elmo A. Robinson, chairmen of the Southern California, San Francisco Bay, and Loma Prieta chapters, respectively; Richard M. Leonard, chairman of the Outing Committee; Herbert L. Breed, chairman of a special committee appointed to make a study of the relationship of the annual outing to the Sierra Club; Arthur H. Blake, chairman of the Mountain Records Committee and also chairman of a special committee on the convention of the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs. Dr. Hildebrand called the meeting to order.

The report of the Judges of Election was thereupon read announcing that the following were elected on April 10, 1937, directors of the Sierra Club for the ensuing year: Ansel Adams, Phil S. Bernays, Lewis F. Clark, William E. Colby, Glen Dawson,

Francis P. Farquhar, Joel H. Hildebrand, Walter L. Huber, J. N. LeConte, Duncan McDuffie, Marion R. Parsons, Robert M. Price, Bestor Robinson, Walter A. Starr, Francis D. Tappaan.

The following were elected officers for the ensuing year: Joel H. Hildebrand, president; Francis D. Tappaan, vice-president; William E. Colby, secretary; Walter L. Huber, treasurer. Duncan McDuffie was re-elected the fifth member of the Executive Committee. Joseph N. LeConte was unanimously re-elected honorary president. The following were unanimously re-elected honorary vice-presidents: Robert Underwood Johnson, Vernon L. Kellogg, J. Horace McFarland, John C. Merriam, Robert G. Sproul, Ray Lyman Wilbur, William H. Wright. Horace M. Albright, in recognition of the splendid service he has been giving for many years to the cause of national parks, and François E. Matthes, in recognition of his fine contribution to the knowledge of our mountain regions through his geologic studies in the Sierra and elsewhere, were also unanimously elected honorary vice-presidents.

The minutes of the last meeting of the Board of Directors, held December 12, 1936, were approved as published in the December SIERRA CLUB BULLETIN.

Mr. Colby reported a net gain of 215

members for the year 1936, the number of members on December 31, 1936, being 2,661; with a further net gain of 76 members during the first four months of 1937, the membership on May 1 totaled 2,737, distributed as follows: Southern California Chapter, 893; San Francisco Bay Chapter, 1,435; Loma Prieta Chapter, 149; Riverside Chapter, 54; General, 206.

Mr. Huber presented a written report on receipts and disbursements for the year 1936.

A brief written report submitted by Richard M. Leonard, chairman of the Outing Committee, was read by Mr. Colby, and Mr. Leonard gave some further details concerning plans for the 1937 outing to Glacier National Park and Canada.

Lewis F. Clark, chairman of the Lodge Committee, stated that custodians would be at LeConte Memorial, Parsons Memorial, and Shasta Alpine lodges during the summer season as usual; as chairman of the Clair Tappaan Lodge Committee, he reported in detail as to use of the lodge during the season just ending, giving general figures on operating receipts and disbursements, and stating that a detailed accounting would be given the Treasurer of the Sierra Club on June 30. Plan for the coming summer is to develop an adequate water supply from the springs on the land purchased by the Sierra Club from the Southern Pacific Land Company, completion of the annex being deferred for a year as there are no funds on hand for the purchase of shakes and particularly as there are outstanding lumber and other bills from the construction of the annex last summer.

It was voted that the Sierra Club lend to the Clair Tappaan Lodge Committee an additional sum of \$1,000 for a period of one year at 4 per cent interest, and that the same rate of interest be charged for the \$500 loaned last summer, effective from the date of this meeting. The matter of the policy of the Sierra Club in regard to expansion of lodge facilities was ordered left to the Executive Committee and the Clair Tappaan

Lodge Committee, with power to act. The purchase of land containing three springs from the Southern Pacific Land Company, as authorized at the December meeting, was ratified. A motion was passed that the Clair Tappaan Lodge Committee, after consultation with the Executive Committee, be authorized to negotiate with the Touristen-Verein regarding a joint development of the water supply.

Bestor Robinson, chairman of the Winter Sports Committee, reported that the U. S. Forest Service plans to construct two ski trails, provided funds can be secured: One for a two-day trip to Tahoe from the Norden region, and the other for a two-day trip to Sierraville. The Winter Sports Committee plans to raise sufficient funds to construct two shelters, as authorized by the directors at the meeting held December 8, 1934.

Mr. Matthes called during the meeting and was informed of his election as an honorary vice-president of the Sierra Club. He told the directors that he greatly appreciated the honor conferred upon him.

A written report submitted by Arthur H. Blake, chairman of the Mountain Records Committee, was read by Mr. Colby, accepted and placed on file. Mr. Blake made special mention of the compilation by Richard M. Leonard of historical and climbing data on peaks of the Sierra Nevada, and the generous assistance of Mr. Starr in revision work and in having copies of this "Mountain Records of the Sierra Nevada" mimeographed for distribution in order to secure additions and corrections.

A written report submitted by Walter A. Starr, chairman of the High Sierra Trails Committee, was read by Mr. Colby, accepted and placed on file. Mr. Colby was directed to write Regional Forester Show, expressing the gratification of the Sierra Club that the John Muir Trail is to be completed this summer. Mr. Starr spoke of the recent interest in working out the Manly and Rogers Route in Death Valley and stated that a memorial is

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being planned. A motion was passed that the Sierra Club co-operate with the historical societies and other groups in the matter of providing an appropriate memorial to Manly and Rogers.

At the December, 1936 meeting of the Board of Directors a committee was appointed to consider the matter of amending the by-laws of the Sierra Club governing the relationship of the annual outing to the Sierra Club. This committee consisted of William E. Colby, Francis P. Farquhar, Richard M. Leonard, Bestor Robinson, Francis D. Tappaan. Subsequently this special committee and the Executive Committee felt that a thorough study of the matter should be made before any steps were taken to amend the by-laws, and Mr. Herbert L. Breed was added to the special committee as chairman by the Executive Committee and requested to investigate the matter. Mr. Breed was called upon for his report. As a result of his report and subsequent discussion, it was felt desirable that the responsibility of the Club for the lodges and various activities, both of the Club and of the chapters, should be considered as well. Mr. Breed was thanked for his report and requested to continue the investigation and report further at the December meeting. Mr. Leonard was asked to serve as vice-chairman of this special committee.

A motion was passed that the Sierra Club hold the Outing Committee harmless from any possible financial loss or damage for which it might be held responsible by reason of its management of the annual outing.

A motion was passed that the matter of public liability insurance be referred to the Executive Committee.

Written reports submitted by Archie J. Twogood and William J. Murray, chairmen of the Riverside and Southern California chapters, respectively, were read by Mr. Colby. Mrs. Sharman, in reporting briefly on the San Francisco Bay Chapter, mentioned the addition to the Tamalpais State Park of land adjoining the Mountain Theatre, brought

about through the efforts of the Tamalpais Conservation Club assisted by the Bay Chapter and the other local outdoor clubs. Mr. Twogood in his report mentioned the plan to build a ski hut on Mount San Geronio. Glen Dawson stated that the construction of this hut, along the lines of the one on Mount San Antonio, would be undertaken upon the securing of a lease from the U. S. Forest Service; that the Ski Mountaineers of the Southern California Chapter would contribute \$100 to the project, the Riverside Chapter \$100, and there would be some additional contributions. The Board of Directors thereupon voted the sum of \$100 as a contribution to this project.

A motion was passed that the Board of Directors express appreciation to Mr. Braeme E. Gigas for his thoughtfulness in preparing interesting data regarding various Southern California Chapter outings, in mimeographed form for distribution to the members of the club taking part in the outings and to the directors. It was directed that copies be kept in the club files.

At the December, 1936 meeting, Mr. Price and Mr. McDuffie were appointed to draft a resolution of appreciation for the years of service given by Mr. Colby in the matter of the annual outings, and also by Mr. Tappaan and Mr. Adams. Mr. Price read the following resolution which was unanimously approved:

In the vast movement westward across the American continent, there was scant opportunity to develop an appreciation of the beauties of nature. The struggle to conquer the plains, to cross the mountain barriers and the forbidding deserts taxed the energy and strength of the pioneers to the utmost. It was a mere struggle for existence. But as the West became more settled, the hardships grew less burdensome and the frontier began to disappear; there arose here and there men who saw more than the material and the utilitarian, men to whom the plains, the deserts and the mountains presented rare beauty and the

means for gratifying their aesthetic temperaments. Preëminent among them was our own John Muir who imparted to many within the range of his broad influence the inspiration he had received from the snowy peaks, glorious cascades, crystal streams, and majestic forests.

Fortunately for the Sierra Club his mantle fell upon one who was inspired by the same great love of nature; William E. Colby, initiating the first outing of the Club in 1901, continued for thirty-five years by his careful planning, personal sacrifices, devotion and good judgment to make it possible, through the outings, for thousands of persons to become intimately acquainted with the glories of the Sierra Nevada, to "gain their good tidings" and their inspiration. It is no exaggeration to say that no one person has been so instrumental in stimulating a love for the mountains of the West or has shown so great a determination to preserve all the good things they possess as has William E. Colby, and it is with the deepest regret, but with the sincerest appreciation for all he has accomplished through his years of devoted service to the Sierra Club and its ideals, that his resignation from active service on the outings is accepted.

Two other members of the Club who feel that they cannot longer continue in active cooperation in the outings by reason of other demands upon their time and energy, justify an expression of appreciation from the Club for the valuable services they have rendered to the outings. Francis D. Tappaan, son of our late beloved Clair S. Tappaan, who for many years acted as assistant manager of the outings, has for the past several years virtually acted as manager. His courtesy to all, his skillful management, his courage and fairness have endeared him to all with whom he came in contact; Ansel Adams, with his good comradeship, geniality and artistic abilities freely exerted for the benefit of the Club, has contributed greatly to the efficiency and enjoyment of the outings. Their resignations

are deeply regretted and the Club extends to them its sincere appreciation for the very valuable services they have contributed to in welfare.

Respectfully submitted,

ROBERT M. PRICE
DUNCAN McDUFFIE

Budgets were submitted by the four chapters and the percentage of dues heretofore paid to each chapter was not changed. A motion was passed that a special committee consisting of the Executive Committee augmented by the Chairman of the Southern California Chapter and one other member to be designated by him, be appointed to consider the financial requirements of the Southern California Chapter for the present year and next year, report to be made to the Board of Directors at the December meeting. The sum of \$250 was voted as a donation to the Southern California Chapter to help defray the expense of furnishing its new headquarters.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted: Whereas, the Reclamation Service has proposed the construction of a tunnel under Rocky Mountain National Park, and whereas the construction of such a tunnel would inevitably result in extensive and material changes in the landscape of the Park, and whereas such an invasion of the integrity of the Park involves a subordination of national park values wholly contrary to established national park policy and would establish a precedent fraught with grave danger to the entire National Park System, therefore, be it resolved that the Sierra Club vigorously oppose any legislation to permit construction of the proposed tunnel.

The action of the Executive Committee in opposing the construction of a proposed state highway from Porterville to Lone Pine was unanimously ratified.

Mrs. Parsons reported on plans for the John Muir Centenary in 1938. Mr. William A. Magee was appointed chairman of a special committee to represent the Sierra Club

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in this matter, with Mrs. Parsons serving as a member of the committee, other members to be appointed by Dr. Hildebrand.

The matter of further action in behalf of the proposed Kings River National Park was left to the Executive Committee, with Mr. Adams acting in conjunction.

A motion was passed that the remarks made by Dr. Hildebrand at the memorial service held for the late Colonel C. G. Thomson, Superintendent of Yosemite National Park, held in the Yosemite Valley on April 4, 1937, be printed in the SIERRA CLUB BULLETIN, and a resolution was adopted to the effect that these remarks should be considered as expressing the sentiment of the Sierra Club.

Arthur H. Blake, who was appointed at the December meeting chairman of a special committee to aid in plans for the sixth annual convention of the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs to be held over Labor Day at the Alpine Lodge of the California Alpine Club, in Marin County, submitted a written report. Mr. Blake was asked to continue as chairman of this committee, other members to be appointed by Dr. Hildebrand. Dr. Hildebrand was also authorized to see that the Sierra Club have an official delegate

in attendance at the convention. It was hoped that many members of the Sierra Club would be able to attend and aid in making the convention a success.

The following Outing Committee was approved by the Board: Richard M. Leonard (chairman), Herbert L. Breed, Phil S. Bernays.

The following Editorial Committee was approved by the Board: Francis P. Farquhar (Editor), Arthur H. Blake, Leland Curtis, Glen Dawson, Louise Hewlett, Marion R. Parsons, George Shochat, Henry E. Timby, Hervey Voge.

The following committee chairmen were approved by the Board, the members of their committees to be appointed by Dr. Hildebrand: Lodge Committee, Lewis F. Clark; Mountain Records Committee, Arthur H. Blake; High Sierra Trails Committee, Walter A. Starr; Glacier Study Committee, Oliver Kehrlein; Winter Sports Committee, Bestor Robinson; Clair Tappaan Lodge Committee, Lewis F. Clark.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 P.M.

WM. E. COLBY,
Secretary.

VIRGINIA FERGUSON,
Secretary Pro Tem.

Charles Goff Thomson

Colonel Charles Goff Thomson, Superintendent of Yosemite National Park, died very suddenly of a heart attack, in Yosemite Valley, March 23, 1937. Colonel Thomson came to Yosemite as Superintendent in 1929 after six years of service as Superintendent of Crater Lake National Park. He was born at Little Falls, New York, in 1883, and was graduated from Cornell University in 1907. During the following ten years he was in the Philippines where he did outstanding work in suppressing livestock diseases and as a Di-

rector of Prisons. During the war he was a Lieutenant Colonel in command of a remount depot at Luz, France. He was the author of several novels and a number of articles. In 1912 he married Hazel Gibbs who, with two sons, survives him.

At a memorial service held in Yosemite, April 4, Professor Hildebrand, Acting President of the Sierra Club, spoke as follows:

We stand this morning in the presence of the grandeur of the Yosemite to honor the memory of one who was for years its faith-

ful guardian. We of the Sierra Club join with whole hearts in this tribute. We have had particular opportunities to appraise his stewardship. He has welcomed us here on countless occasions; he has joined us regularly in San Francisco for our annual feasts; he has sat by our campfires, year after year, here and there, all over this mighty region; sure of our sympathetic understanding, he has talked to us over the campfire, freely and familiarly, disclosing his ideals for Yosemite and his plans for their fulfillment; he has sought our counsel over and over again, and in giving it we have found that he also understood our ideals for the preservation of this rich heritage of a bountiful Nature.

We have felt a special concern for the Yosemite, because the same visions which led to the creation of Yosemite National Park led also to the creation of the Sierra Club. It is the high privilege of those responsible for the destinies of each to preserve these visions undimmed. We have, therefore, a particular love for Yosemite. However far we roam, seeking the beauty of other mountains than these, we return here, again and again, to these inexhaustible treasures. And we have felt content these moun-

tains and valleys were under the guardianship of our fellow member and companion of the campfire, for we came to know him and to know that he clearly perceived the values we saw. We learned not only that he was a faithful public servant, an efficient administrator, a wise ruler who could direct the coming and going of thousands with a firm but almost unperceived hand, but that he was also a man who had caught the vision that gave meaning and wisdom to the daily task.

As the mountaineer trudges along the trail he occasionally meets someone who seems to have come there by mistake, who is blind and deaf, in the temple; but usually the one he meets is a mountaineer, like himself, one whose eyes are open, who sees the upthrusting mountains, who sees the luminous shapes of clouds, who has looked into the throats of flowers, has heard the dripping of water on moss, who pays attention to the indignant chatter of a squirrel. Between such persons there is a spiritual kinship that is quickly perceived. We discovered this in Charles Goff Thomson. For us he will not die; his life and his spirit are a part of these immortal mountains.

William E. Colby Honored

At the commencement exercises of the University of California on May 22, President Robert G. Sproul, an honorary vice-president of the Sierra Club, conferred the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws on William E. Colby, with the following words: "Graduate of the University and for many years lecturer on the law of mines, a native son of California who has devoted tireless and unceasing effort to the protection of her natural resources and preservation of her noble forests, a lover of Nature who has brought thousands to her worship."

On June 14, President Aurelia H. Rein-

hardt, of Mills College, at one time a director of the Sierra Club, conferred the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws on William E. Colby, with the following words: "Son of a pioneer teacher in Mills' Benicia days, lover of nature who has opened the eyes of indifference to the glory of the Sierra and has stayed the hand of ignorance from irremediable destruction, lawyer wielding influence that treasure might be drawn from the earth without despoiling forever its contours, citizen preserving the calm green of fir forests and primeval grandeur of sequoia groves."

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Sixth Annual Convention of the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs, September 4, 5, 6, 1937

This year Sierra Club members will have the opportunity of attending the Convention of the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs in large numbers because of the fact that the meetings will be held on Mount Tamalpais above Mill Valley, Marin County, California. Headquarters will be at Alpine Lodge above Muir Woods National Monument, where, as host club, the California Alpine Club will furnish accommodations and commissary for officers, delegates, and registered guests from the member clubs. The cost per person, from Saturday night dinner through Monday luncheon, will be \$3.50. After the out-of-state guests have been provided for, reservations will be given out in the order of their receipt.

The forthcoming schedules of all chapters will contain details of convention arrangements. Bay region members, if unable to attend all proceedings, have the opportunity to participate in the Sunday hike through Muir Woods and up Bootjack Canyon to the Mountain Theatre, where the afternoon

open-air business meeting of the Federation will be held. Here subjects of vital interest to the Sierra Club will be considered. Those attending are urged to come prepared to make an outdoor supper at the nearby Rock Springs Camp (the barbecued supper scheduled for the Mountain Theatre being restricted to registered guests) and to attend the evening entertainment at the Mountain Theatre which will be participated in by all member clubs.

Aside from the more serious nature of the convention, those of us in the Sierra Club who have attended past conventions as delegates or guests have found them unique and most interesting affairs, enabling us to become better acquainted with a fine group of people from the twenty-two member clubs, especially those from the Northwest whose hospitality for the past five years we now have some small opportunity to return by participation in this convention.

ARTHUR H. BLAKE.

High Sierra Packers

With the regular Club outing taking place in Glacier Park this summer, there will be some members planning shorter trips into our own High Sierra. For their benefit, the following information on packers is offered. While not guaranteed to be absolutely accurate, it is felt to be substantially so.

Although the heavy snowfall of last winter will keep some of the high passes blocked a little longer than usual, it will be well to write packers a good while in advance of the trip planned. Indications point to a busy

packing summer, and packers are sometimes not too prompt in answering letters. In planning trips, it is a good idea to inquire specifically about the matter of food supplies. Some packers are located near stores where food for the trip may be conveniently bought while others prefer that you bring your own food. If you do buy your own supplies beforehand, you can save yourself some packing time and gladden the packer's heart by bringing your food ready-packed in boxes. Get those made to contain two five-gallon

gasoline cans, or boxes of similar size. These fit snugly into the great majority of packers' canvas or leather-end kyacks.

The accompanying list of High Sierra packers is submitted with some hesitation, because it is hard to know just how many to recommend. According to Forest and Park Service records, 76 pack outfits will be operating this summer in the High Sierra region between Tioga and Walker passes, but it is obviously impossible in the space available to list them all. Nor would this be advisable. Club members will find in the list at least one packer in each packing area. The packers listed are either known by the writer as members of the High Sierra Packers' Association, or are recommended upon the most trustworthy authority available.

Packers are listed by "packing areas," starting with Yosemite on the north and working down the west slope of the Sierra to the Kernville region, then up the Owens Valley back to the June Lake region just south of the Tioga Road. Prospective packtrippers will find that they may pack in to any point in the High Sierra from some of these packing areas. The description of the country accessible from each packing area is not meant to be all-inclusive, but merely to give an idea of where the locations are. Often, of course, pack stations on different sides of the mountains are starting points for the same back country regions. In general, one can get into the high country more quickly from the east side, but many prefer the west side as an approach because of the greater variety of country that is found on the trails up to the higher elevations.

Yosemite: For trips starting from Yosemite Valley. Packer, Yosemite Park and Curry Co.; address, Yosemite National Park.

Soldier Meadow: For trips into the San Joaquin, North and Middle Forks. Packer,

Mrs. Billy Brown; address, Coarsegold.

Huntington and Florence Lakes: For trips into the San Joaquin (South Fork), Evolution Creek, and Mono Creek. Packer, Vard Cunningham; address, 2272 Harvey Ave., Fresno.

Dinkey Creek and Coolidge Meadow: For trips into the North Fork of the Kings River, the upper San Joaquin (South Fork), over Hell-for-Sure Pass, and into the Middle Fork of the Kings River to Tchipite Valley, Simpson Meadow and Le Conte Canyon. Packers, (1) Ted Anderson; location, Dinkey Creek; address Tollhouse. (2) Rae Crabtree; location, near Coolidge Meadow; address, Tollhouse.

Hume and Big Meadow: For trips into the South Fork of the Kings River Canyon, Roaring River, and the Kern-Kaweah Canyon via Colby Pass. Packers, (1) Hugh Tra-week; address, Hume. (2) Ernest Cecil; location, Big Meadow; address, Badger.

Giant Forest and Mineral King: For trips into Deadman and Cloud canyons, upper Kern River, Little Kern River. Packers, (1) Earl McKee; location, Giant Forest, address, Sequoia National Park. (2) Phil Buckman; location, Mineral King; address, Mineral King. (3) Roland Ross; location, Mineral King; address, Mineral King.

Springville: For trips into Little Kern River and middle Kern River (particularly good during early part of season and in the fall for deer hunting). Packers, (1) Art Griswold; location, near Mountain Home; address, Springville. (2) D. G. McComber; location, Camp Nelson and Quaking Aspen Meadow; address, Camp Nelson via Springville.

Kernville: For trips up lower Kern River and into meadow country south of Golden Trout Creek. Packer, Earl Pascoe; address, Road's End.

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Haiwee Canyon: For trips into South Fork of Kern River. Packer, Sam Lewis; address, Little Lake.

Lone Pine: For trips into Kern River and Golden Trout Creek via Mulkey, Cottonwood, Army or Whitney passes. Packer, Chrysler & Cook; address, Lone Pine.

Independence: For trips into Tyndall Creek and headwaters of South Fork of Kings River, including Bubba Creek, Rae Lakes, Woods Creek, etc. Packers, (1) Allie Robinson; address, Independence. (2) Archie Dean; address, Independence.

Bishop: For trips into Le Conte Canyon, Piute Creek, Evolution Valley. Packers, (1) Harry Halliday; location, South Fork of Bishop Creek; address, care Parcher's Camp, Bishop. (2) H. Schober; location, Bishop Creek; address, Bishop.

Rock Creek: For trips into Mono Creek and Vermilion Valley. Packer, The Broken Bar Pack Outfit; address, Bishop.

McGee Creek: For trips into Cascade Valley and upper Fish Creek. Packer, Cecil Thorington; address, Bishop.

Mammoth Lakes: For trips into the upper Middle Fork of the San Joaquin River. Packers, (1) Lloyd Summers; address, Mammoth Lakes. (2) Don McGuffin; address, Bishop.

Silver Lake: For trips to Thousand Island Lake and the Lyell Fork of the Tuolumne River. Packer, Slim Tatum; address, June Lake.

When writing to packers it is advisable to mention one's membership in the Sierra Club. Many packers do not have a proper understanding of the general interest of members in such individual trips, nor of their great and sincere interest in working, like the packers, to protect and perpetuate the primitive areas of the national forests and parks, the maintenance of which without further road development is essential to the proper enjoyment of such pack trips.

The *Guide to the John Muir Trail* by Walter A. Starr, Jr., (obtainable at the Club office and at leading bookstores) will be of great help in planning a pack trip in the Sierra.

If there are any further inquiries on these matters, or if anyone needs assistance in organizing a trip, I should be glad to help before leaving for the mountains myself.

Address: before July 10, Ross; phone, San Anselmo 3050; after July 10, care of the Sierra Club office, 1050 Mills Tower, San Francisco.

NORMAN B. ("IKE") LIVERMORE, JR.

Snow Conditions on High Sierra Passes

According to reports received at the Club office all passes in the High Sierra will be late in opening this year, due to last winter's heavy snowfall and to the unusually cold spring.

John R. White, Superintendent of Sequoia National Park, gives approximate opening dates as follows: Kaweah Gap, July 15-20; Elizabeth Pass, July 25; Colby Pass, August 5; Foresters Pass, August 15; Shepherd Pass, August 15; Whitney Pass, August 15; Black Rock Pass, August 5. Roy Boothe,

Supervisor of the Inyo National Forest believes that such passes as Kearsarge, Baxter, Taboose and Bishop should be open by July 15.

Due to the fact that the snow is packed unusually hard it should be possible to take packstock and saddle horses over these passes before the opening dates. Parties making such early crossings should be equipped with shovels, and should travel in the early morning when the snow is still frozen.

Uniform Distress Signal

In the interest of establishing a universal method of calling for help out-of-doors the American Alpine Club has, after consultation with many American outdoor clubs, ascertained that the following signal has the preference of the great majority:

Three quickly repeated calls (audible or visible) repeated at regular intervals. Already widely recognized by outdoor people in this country, it is hoped that this signal, like the SOS at sea, will be recognized generally as a call for help, and will only be used in times of dire distress. Whoever receives such a distress signal should acknowledge it in any practical manner, preferably by *two calls* of similar character repeated at intervals. Anyone noting a distress signal is morally obligated to rescue the party in distress, or if he is incompetent to do so, to notify rangers,

guides or campers. In giving or acknowledging the distress signal, it is suggested that one conserve energy as much as possible; flash a light, wave something three times quickly and repeat it regularly, or use a whistle. In daytime, especially in the High Sierra, mirror flashes or fire smudge signals regulated by a coat will be especially effective on account of their long range visibility; at night the three light flashes or three fires laid in a row will be the most effective.

The foregoing illustrates how important it is that no rock-climber, mountaineer, fisherman, or camper ever leave camp without a waterproof box containing matches. A flashlight, too, no matter how small, is always found in the equipment of the intelligent outdoor person.

Committee Appointments for 1937-38

Outing Committee—Richard M. Leonard (chairman), Phil S. Bernays, Herbert L. Breed.

Editorial Board—Francis P. Farquhar (chairman), Arthur H. Blake, Leland Curtis, Glen Dawson, Louise Hewlett, Marion R. Parsons, George Shochat, Henry E. Timby, Hervey Voge.

Lodge Committee—Lewis F. Clark (chairman), Ansel Adams, F. E. Baldauf, Glen Dawson, Walter A. Starr.

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